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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00
CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-07
OMB-01 AID-05 AGRE-00 /072 W
-----050102 080049Z /70

P 080022Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9409
DEAHQS WASHDC PRIORITY
CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
ALL CONSULATES MEXICO BY POUCH

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EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION ACTIVITY
REPORT, MARCH 25 THROUGH MARCH 31, FIELD OPERATIONS
THROUGH 7 APRIL, 1978.

1. GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION STATISTICS FOR THE
THIRTEENTH WEEK OF 1978 ARE OUTLINED BELOW: FIGURES
IN PARENTHESIS REFLECT CUMULATIVE TOTAL EFFECTIVE
DECEMBER, 1977.

ERADICATION MARCH 25-31, 1978

MEXICAN ZONES	5-9	3-4	1-2	TOTAL
A. POPPY FIELDS	661	0	183	844 (13,403)
B. HECTARES	59.84	0	17.02	76.86 (1,057)
C. MARIHUANA	17	0	3	20 (1,487)
D. HECTARES	2.07	0	1.99	4.06 (335)

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E. MIXED FIELDS	3	1	0	4 (92)
F. HECTARES	.45	.16	0	.61 (9)

INTERDICTION MARCH 25-31, 1978
- THIS PERIOD CUMULATIVE TOTAL

A. KG. HEROIN	1.07	48.174
B. KG. OPIUM	1.715	207.752
C. KG. POPPY SEEDS	.500	15.441
D. HEROIN LABS	1	7
E. KG. COCAINE	2.5	25.058
F. KG. MARIHUANA	5,679	204,613
G. KG. MARIHUANA SEEDS	0	716.74
H. KG. HASHISH	0	52.65
I. LITERS HASHISH OIL	0	.250
J. D.U. DANGEROUS DRUGS	51,499	1,057,609
K. ARRESTS-MEXICAN	80	1366
L. ARRESTS-U.S.	10	50
M. ARRESTS-OTHER	0	11
N. VEHICLES	16	204
O. WEAPONS	34	525
P. ANNUNITION	940	22,144
Q. PESOS	0	177,659
R. DOLLARS	1,922	11,442
S. AIRCRAFT	0	20

2. ERADICATION STATISTICS FOR THE 13TH WEEK OF 1978 HAVE BEEN COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR THE 13TH WEEK OF 1977. 844 POPPY FIELDS WERE DESTROYED DURING THE 13TH WEEK OF 1978 AS COMPARED WITH 379 POPPY FIELDS DESTROYED DURING THE SAME WEEK IN 1977, MORE THAN DOUBLE THE NUMBER. 76.86 HECTARES OF POPPIES WERE DESTROYED DURING THE 13TH WEEK OF 1978 AS COMPARED WITH 71.74 HECTARES DURING THE SAME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEEK OF 1977. THIS REFLECTS A CONTINUING TREND OF SMALLER SIZE FIELDS IN 1978 AS COMPARED TO 1977.

3. FIELD OPERATIONS: ZONE 4, GUADALAJARA: EMBASSY OFFICER WAS PRESENT ON MARCH 31 WHEN ZONE COORDINATOR CUEVA CERPA BRIEFED EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA ON CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES IN HIS ZONE. CUEVA REPORTED POPPY SPRAYING OPERATIONS WERE PROGRESSIVELY DIMINISHING AS THEY WERE FINDING SMALLER FIELDS DISPERSED OVER WIDER AREAS; VERY FEW FIELDS HAD BEEN SCORED PRIOR TO SPRAYING; HE JUDGES THEY WILL TERMINATE POPPY SPRAYING BY MID-APRIL AND MAXREVBQHTION TO MARIHUANA; AND HE REQUESTED AN INCREASE IN AVIATION RESOURCES TO CONDUCT A RECONNAISSANCE SWEEP CONFINED TO THE MAJOR CULTIVATION AREAS FOR VERIFICATION. CERPA COMMENTED ON HOSTILE GROUND FIRE AGAINST A SUPPORT HELICOPTER, MODEL 206-B, WHICH OCCURRED IN SECTOR 156, IN THE PROXIMITY OF TEPIC, ON MARCH 15, WITH ONLY MINOR DAMAGE TO FUSELAGE.

4. ZONE6, CULIACAN: EMBASSY OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO GROUND TRUTH EXERCISE REPORTED ON APRIL 7, 28 GENERALLY REPRESENTATIVE POPPY FIELDS ARE MARKED AND SECURED BY MILITARY

ELEMENTS IN SECTOR 81 PENDING THE NASA E-18 FLIGHTS
SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 8.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA INFORMED EMBASSY ON A REPORTED
CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MILITARY UNITS ASSIGNED TO SECURE
SECTOR 81 WITH SUSPECTS WHO FIRED AT AN AERO SERVICES HELI-
COPTER PERFORMING THE GROUND TRUTH. BAEZA STATED HE HAD
UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SOURCE THAT
EIGHT SUSPECTS WERE REPORTLY KILLED AS RESULT OF FIRE
FIGHT WITH MILITARY UNITS.

BAEZA ALSO INFORMED EMBASSY ON ANOTHER CASE OF HOSTILE

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ACTION AGAINST A MODEL 206-B HELICOPTER WHICH OCCURRED IN
SECTOR 69, ZONE 6, ON MARCH 14. ONLY MINOR FUSELAGE
DAMAGE TO THE AIRCRAFT.

5. ZONE 2, CHILPANCINGO: ON APRIL 4, AN AERO SERVICES
HELICOPTER, MODEL 206-B TOOK GROUND FIRE WHICH RESULTED
IN THE WOUNDING OF A FEDERAL JUDICIAL AGENT AND EIGHT HITS
TO THE AIRCRAFT. NO OTHER DETAILS PROVIDED BY REPORTING
SOURCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

6. COMMENTS: THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF
GROUND FIRE HOSTILITIES AGAINST AERO SERVICES AIRCRAFT
OVER THE PAST 30 DAYS WHICH HAS BECOME A POINT OF MAJOR
CONCERN FOR BOTH OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SENIOR
STAFF AND EMBASSY OFFICERS. ARMOR OF AMERICA REPRESENTA-

TIVE IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN MEXICO, D. F., ON APRIL 9, TO DEMONSTRATE HARD ARMOR SEATS FOR MODEL 212 HELICOPTERS AND WORK ON DESIGN FOR SIMILAR PROTECTION FOR MODEL 206-B HELICOPTERS. EMBASSY OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THE FIELD OPERATIONS HAVE PERCEIVED CRITICISM FROM AIR CREWS THAT SOFT ARMOR PANELS INSTALLED IN THE ROTARY WING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FLEET DO NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION AGAINST GROUND FIRE FROM HEAVY CALIBRE WEAPONS. ARMOR OF AMERICA REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONDUCT SERIES OF TESTS AGAINST ISSUED VESTS AND PANELS FOR AN EVALUATION DURING HIS VISIT. THOMPSON

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